

Remarks/Arguments:

Independent claims 25 and 28 are amended. Claims 26 and 27 are amended to correct claim dependencies. Claims 32-34 have been added.

As each of the independent claims have been amended to show features not shown in the art and cited in the Official Action, it is believed that the grounds for rejection in the Official Action are overcome for the independent as well as the dependent claims.

The Applicants observe that many of the references cited in the official action were also cited in a related application having a serial number of 09/742,044. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner take notice of any art cited in the related application that has not been reviewed in the present application.

With respect to elements of the claimed invention as amended herein, the Applicants note the following:

Chow discloses placing a calling party on hold by the network and not completing the voice channel until the called party is ready to take the call (col. 41/ln. 48, 42/ ln. 21). This is different from completing the call including the voice channel and muting a microphone while the call is connected.

Chow does not teach, even in his discussion of timers (col. 37/lin. 43-col 39/lin. 65) producing a subsequent alert to remind the called party that a call is on hold.

Chow does not teach any similar feature as claimed herein relating to multi-line phones.

Please direct any questions or comments to the undersigned attorney regarding the Notice of Allowance in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2004

By: 
James A. Harrison, Reg.40,401
Garlick Harrison & Markison, LLP
P.O. Box 670007
Dallas, Texas 75367
(214) 902-8100/office
(214) 902-8101/facsimile